Uncaring and Greedy

The bible tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil.

I encountered a conspicuous illustration of this on one of the coldest days of the year, the day before an all-time low was predicted, both days with either a high wind-chill and one predicted.

Because I am past 80, unsteady on my feet even with a cane, and am kept alive by an anti-coagulent, which makes even a bump potentially hazardous, I'd skipped the regular blood test the day before when the storm was heavy, the winds strong, and the official advice was to stay at home if at all possible.

With the predicted next-day temperature zero and the wind-chill 35 below, I dared not delay that necessary blood test.

When I arrived at the Toll House Road Medical and Outpatient Surgery Building, I found the parking areas and the roadways glazed and icy. The snow had been removed once but now after the first snow was removed it had snowed again. It simply was not safe for the elderly in particular to walk on that glazed surface, especially not with the strong gusts of wind and for the distance from the also-glazed parking areas to the entrance.

On reporting this potential danger to the lab I was told to report it to the office that manages the building. There I was greeted with obvious unpleasantness by the woman who had to leave her computer to speak to me. She was unpleasant and she looked it. She knew I was not a patient and she may have guessed the purpose of my visit.

When I explained to her that the condition on all sides of the building was slippery and dangerous, she replied, "We've done all we can." I then said, "you did not have salt or sand used." Her reply was, "You should have stayed home."

That is a way to speak to an obviously older person who was out on a day like that and for a medical reason?

That building, new and modern as it is, has been a disgrace and in other ways a health hazard, medical building as it is, all because the office that manages it is

uncaring and chisels. I think the Health Department should get interested.

The janitorial service is excellent, Monday through Friday nights. The building is used the other two days but is not cleaned because the janitor is hired for five days only. What is not cleaned those days includes the toilets, too.

For weeks on end the one men's toilet was broken. It could not be flushed. Complaints from the lab, to which I reported it, were to no avail until I asked the lab to report that if that was not repaired I'd report it to the Health Department. Then the one men's toilet was finally repaired.

The soap dispensers did not work for months. When that finally was rectified, dirt-catching holes were left to catch dirt, as they still do, after several years.

There are two toilets in the one woman's restroom. When my wife used it the day I was told I should have done other than my doctor has me do, one had a broken handle, it could not be flushed, and the stench was abominable.

In a medical building!

Where I and other ill and vulnerable people go.

The management was until recently so cheap with outdoor lighting that the parking-lot-lights cut off automatically when it was still dark. That danger, particularly to the women who work in that building, was ignored despite repeated complaints until a woman whose work gets her there early delivered an "unless" ultimatum. Then and only then, from the time that building was built, did the night lights stay on until full daylight.

The cheapskate owners of that building certainly charge enough in rents to be able to afford minimum safe conditions for those who spending their medical money there, to give them and their practitioner tenants what should be a more than adequate income.

If the contracted snow remover was paid to use sand and salt he would use them to make use of that building less unsafe. Or, as he'd know, he'd lose that contract.

This was not a one-time oversight. It is what is usual for the elderly, the mothers and grandmothers with children in their arms and for all others who are subjected to unnecessary danger on the outside and revolting other danger on the inside.

Only because of the greed of those who are anything but needy. Harold Weisberg

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